

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07093 260439Z

11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 SAM-01 A-01 /078 W

----- 127206

O R 251622Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1597
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHEPS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 7093

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LE
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION

REF: BEIRUT 7069

1. BEFORE DEPARTURE ON BOAT, PRESS REPORTS HOUGHTON-MACK
CALL ON CHARBEL KASSIS, HEAD OF MARONITE MONASTIC ORDER.
KASSIS SPOKE TO PRESS AFTERWARDS. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS HE
CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS "POSITIVE AND A CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM."
AN-NAHAR QUOTES
(#)

AMERICAN ENVOYS AGREED WITH
HIS IDEA THAT LEBANESE CRISIS IS BEYOND CONTROL OF LEBANESE
PEOPLE OR LEBANESE STATE, THAT IT IS "STRUGGLE BETWEEN
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TWO LOGICS, THE LOGIC OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

WHICH IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE INTERNATIONAL LEFT, AND THE LOGIC OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE." KASSIS QUOTED AS SAYING ENVOYS HOPE RETURN TO LEBANON AFTER ABOUT TEN DAYS.

2. L'ORIENT CARRIES PICTURE OF HOUGHTON AND MACK ABOARD BOAT DEPARTING FOR CYPRUS, AND REPORTS THEY RETURNING TO WASHINGTON VIA CYPRUS.

3. AN-NAHAR SAID DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT ENVOYS' MISSION WAS TO STUDY EXTENT OF SOVIET INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON AND EVALUATE STEPS TO COUNTERACT IT.

4. AN-NAHAR, QUOTING AFP, SAID "SOURCE CLOSE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT" INDICATES THAT USG IS CONSIDERING OPENING PERMANENT CONSULATE IN JOUNIEH. L'ORIENT CARRIES SAME STORY WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION. (EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER CONTACTED AFP, L'ORIENT AND AN-NAHAR, SAID STORY WITHOUT FOUNDATION; U.S. HAS NO PLANS TO ESTABLISH CONSULATE IN JOUNIEH; HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION WAS NECESSITATED BY INABILITY OF AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PERSONNEL TO VISIT CHRISTIAN SIDE; AND REITERATED STANDARD U.S. OPPOSITION TO PARTITION AND SUPPORT OF LEBANESE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.)

HUNT

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, PFOR, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07093
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760325-0225
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760823/aaaaatco.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7069
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION
TAGS: PFOR, LE, (MACK, DAVID L), (HOUGHTON, ROBERT B), (KASSIS, CHARBEL)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN AMEMBASST ATHENS CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA LONDON NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006